



INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR

THE graduation ceremony at the Divine Word University was given international flavour by the pan pipe dancers all the way from the neighboring country of Solomon Islands. The DWU Solomon Islands students were part of the procession leading the University Council, official guests and academic staff into the graduation stage and out of the stage after the graduation. The Solomon Island boys are seen in action here with the bamboo flute beat. Picture: ISHMAEL PALIPAL

Men can now take women to court

BY GORETHY KENNETH

THE revised Lukautim Pikinini Act which goes before Parliament in the May session will give men equal rights as women in accessing the courts for child maintenance and other associated family matters.

This means that when a woman deserts her husband and children, the man will claim maintenance from her. For many years, this could only be done by wives or women for themselves and their children.

Secretary for the Constitutional Law Reform Commission Eric Kwa clarified this while giving a run-down and brief preview of what the Lukautim Pikinini

At a glance

EQUAL RIGHTS: THE revised Lukautim Pikinini Act which goes before Parliament next May Session will now give men equal rights as women in accessing the courts for child maintenance and other associated family matters.

MAINTENANCE: This means that when a woman deserts her husband and children, the man will claim maintenance from her. For many years, this could only be done by women and children.

Act will cover under which men's issues would be enforced. He said they are now clarifying the process under the Act as it is quiet unclear on the men issues.

Mr Kwa outlined some issues that will be highlighted in the revised Lukautim Pikinini Act and spoke briefly about it also at the 2015 PNG Women's Forum that ended last week where

he also made a presentation as the government legal adviser on these issues.

He spoke about how the revised law will enforce the legal marrying age of 18 years, among others, included in this Lukautim Pikinini Act and highlighted that one part will also include empowering men and giving them equal access to the courts just like

the women.

"The other thing also is about men having access to the courts for maintenance so we are now encouraging men to seek the protection of the law, where the wife is the bread winner and then she takes off and the men is left with the children, so for the first time, after so many years now, after Independence, we have now made it equal, so it's not only women seeking the courts access to maintenance but we also asking that men who are deserted will also have the same rights. So we have equality in terms of the law as well," Mr Kwa said.

"So that's one or two things of the new law that's coming," he said.

the drum



YOUR BILL

A TOP diplomat about to be sent packing from PNG? It appears bad debts from a previous posting has come back to haunt him. That's why it pays settling your bills folks.

MOROCCO

NOT sure about sending our students to Morocco in North Africa under a scholarship deal signed recently by our Foreign Minister. The region is a hotspot for terror attacks and a security risk.

BLACKOUT

ELECTRICITY consumers reckon the PPL-imposed blackouts are getting longer. Even in the NCD some suburbs are going without power for over 24-hours! It's unacceptable, they say and we agree.

BLESSING

WHAT is this story we are hearing about a tussle over SOE assets that the IPBC currently manages? Maybe the recent referral of a particular minister is a blessing in disguise.

FAILURE

LAWYER who recently got promoted in the law and justice sector is raising

eyebrows for his work ethic. But his subordinates continue to fail him when they get in late for meetings.

STOP IT

THE criminal act of burning vehicles left by the owners or driver on a city road continues unabated. This one was set alight on the Poreporena Freeway at the weekend. Police do something.

EXTREME

NO feedback as yet to the Drum on whether Adventure Park's crocodiles were accounted for after last week's floods at 14 Mile. We hope they were to avoid extreme visitor attraction!

PERSONAL

THERE is nothing wrong contributing to a private medical fundraiser. But if the money is coming from a top government department for personal medical expenses then it is wrong.

COCKROACH

A CITY school is still waiting for a reputable baking company to send over a complaint form after a student found a cockroach in a pie. C'mon people let's do the right thing.

SEGEYARO



OUR very own Oz-based Penrith Panthers star James Segeyaro is a special guest on Channel Nine's Footy Show this Thursday. Check your local TV guide for the screening time.

PENGEE: thedrum@spp.com.pg

The bottom line Child abuse and neglect has been linked to short and long-term effects from impaired brain development.

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